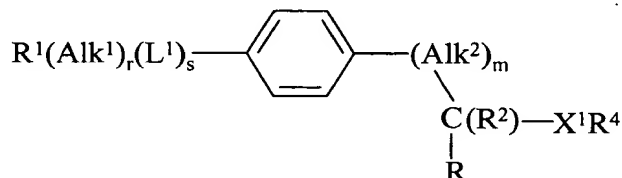


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1a):



wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid;

R<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted pyridyl group;

Alk<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -CON(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CS-, -S(O)N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)S(O)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CON(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CSN(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)SON(R<sup>5</sup>)-, and -N(R<sup>5</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>5</sup>)-;

R<sup>5</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

L<sup>1</sup> is -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -CON(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CS-, -S(O)N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)S(O)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CON(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)CSN(R<sup>5</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>5</sup>)SON(R<sup>5</sup>)-, or -N(R<sup>5</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>5</sup>)-;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk<sup>2</sup> is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

$R^2$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

$X^1$  is a group selected from  $-N(R^3)CO-$ , (where  $R^3$  is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);  $-N(R^3)SO_2-$ ,  $-N(R^3)C(O)O-$  or  $-N(R^3)CON(R^{3a})-$  (where  $R^{3a}$  is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

$R^4$  is an optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$ aliphatic,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkyl,  $C_{3-10}$ cycloalkenyl,  $C_{7-10}$ bicycloalkyl,  $C_{7-10}$ tricycloalkyl,  $C_{7-10}$ bicycloalkenyl, or  $C_{7-10}$ tricycloalkenyl group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates ~~and~~ or N-oxides thereof.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein  $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$  is a  $-CH_2O-$  or  $-CON(R^5)-$  group where  $R^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group.

6. (original) A compound according to Claim 5 wherein  $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$  is a  $-CONH-$  group.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein  $Alk^2$  is  $-CH_2-$ ,  $m$  is an integer 1, and  $R^2$  is a hydrogen atom.

5/ 8. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a -NHCO-, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>-, -  
NHC(O)O- or -NHCONH- group.

6/ 9. (original) A compound according to Claim 8 wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a -NHCO- group.

7/ 10. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted  
straight or branched C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl group or an optionally substituted C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>7-10</sub>tricycloalkyl group.

8/ 11. (original) A compound according to Claim 10 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is an optionally substituted  
straight or branched C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or adamantyl group.

9/ 12. (currently amended) A compound which is:

*N*-Isopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

*N*-Cyclopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

*N*-Acetyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and or N-oxides thereof.

10/ 13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim  
1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

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**PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO**  
**37 CFR § 1.116**

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

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